



TO THE TRVLV

Loyall hearted , learned, well-
accomplished Gentleman, M^r.

Archibald Rankin.

SIR,

RP 23 a 400 27

BEeing injoynd by the
ghost or *Genius* of old *Iohn*
Garret (a man well knowne
and beloued) to collect
gleane, or gather, a bundle or trussic of
Mirth, and for his sake to bestrow the
stage of the melancholly world with
it ; and withall to present it to some
one generous spirit, who was old *Iohns*
friend ; I thought vpon many to
whom I might haue made my Dedi-
cation, who were both Royal, Hono-
rable, Worshipfull, and all wel-affec-
ted towards him : As to mention one

A 20 100 100 for

The Epistle.

for all, that Iewell of the world, and
richest Iem of her sex, that Magazine
of the two inestimable Iewels, *Pati-*
ence and *Fortitude* : to that Illustrious
peerelesse princeesse I might haue re-
commended it, to whose seruice, and
for whose happinesse, his life and best
endeauours, with his prayers and im-
plorations at his death, were vnfained-
ly consecrated. But my manners con-
ceiuing the subject of this booke, of
altogether too triuiall a nature to be
sheltred vnder the shadow of the
winges of transcendent and admired
Maiefty; I stept so many steps downe
the staires with my inuention, when
by good fortune. I met with you,
whom I knew did loue that old honest
mirrour of mirth, deceased; & whom
the world better knowes, are a true de-
uoted friend to honest harmelesse
mirth, and laudable recreation,



I therefore entreat you, that (when
your more serions affaires wil permit)

you

you would bestow the looking vpon
these my poore and beggerly ward-
robe of witty Iests, whom I dare not
call *Apothegmes*.

And because I had many of them
by relation and hear-say, I am in
doubt that some of them may bee in
print in some other Authors, which I
do assure you is more then I do know;
which if it be so, I pray you but to
conniue or tollerate, and let the Au-
thors make twice as bold with mee as
any time.

Thus wishing euery one to mende
one, whereby the rent and torne gar-
ments of Thred-bare Time may bee
well and merrily patched and repai-
red, crauing your pardon, with my best
wishes, I remaine *Y^r mai^r*

I^r remaine Yours euer in the
best of my best
Studies herooft,

JOHN TAYLOR

more at my best
wishes I desire you to make
the best use of it you can
for it is a pretty Book



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IOHN GARRETS GHOST.



HE doores and windowes
of the Heauens were barr'd;
And nights blacke Curtaine,
like an Ebon Robe,
From earth did all Celestiall light discard,
And in sad darknesse clad the ample Globe;
Dead midnight came, the Cats'gan catterwaule;
The time when Ghosts and Goblins walke about
Bats flie, Owles shrick, & dismall dogs do bawle
Whiles conscience cleare securely sleepes it out.
At such a time I sleeping in my bed,
A vision strange appear'd unto my sight,
Amazement all my senses ouerspread,
And fill'd me full with terrour and affright,
A merry graue aspect me thought he had,
And one he seem'd that I had often scene:
Yet was he in such vncomly shape y clad,
That what he was I could not wistly weene.
His cloake was Sacke, but not the Sacke of *Spain*
Canara, Mallago, or sprightfull Shery,
But made of Sack-cloth, such as beares the grain

John Garrets Ghost.

Good salt, & coles, which makes Porters weary,
Lac'd round about with platted wheaten straw,
For which he nothing to the silkeman owed :

A wearing neuer mention'd in the Law,
And yet farre off, like good gold lace it show'd.
Lin'd was his mantle with good Essex plush,
Pide Calues skins, or Veale sattin, which you wil
It neuer was worne thredbare with a brush,
It (naturally) sau'd the labour still.

A hat like *Grantham* steeple, for the crowne
Or Piramide was large in altitude :
With frugall brim, whereby he still was knowne
From other men amongst the multitude,

A Princes shooe, he for a jewell wore,
Two ribbons, and a feather in his beauer,
Which shape me thought I oft had seene before,
Yet out of knowledge were, as't had been neuer
He in his hand a flaming torch did hold,
(And as he nearer did approach to me)
My haire gan stand on end, feare stricke me cold.
Feare not I am *John Garrets* ghost, quoth he.

I come to raze thy dull and lazy Muse
From idleness, from Lethe's hatefull lake :
And therefore stand upon no vaine excuse,
But rise, and to thy tooles thy selfe betake.
Remember me, although my carkasse rot,
Write of me, to me, call me Foole or Iester,
But yet I pray thee (*Taylor*) ranke me not,

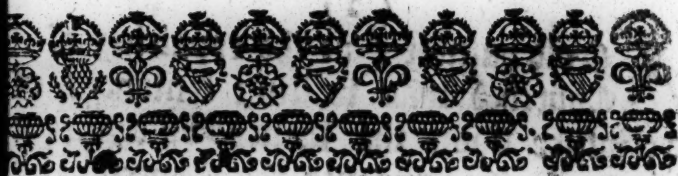
Among

John Garrets Ghost.

mong those knaues that doe the world bepester
Thou wrōt'st of Great *Otoole* and *Coriat*,
Of braue *Sir Thomas Parsons*, Knight o'th Sun,
And *Archy* hath thy verse to glory at,
And yet for me thou nought hast euer done.
Write that in *Ireland* I in *Mars* his trayne,
Long time did vnder noble *Norris* serue :
Where (as I could) I stood gainst Pope and *Spain*,
Whilst somewere slain, & some wth want did staru
Where shot & wounds, & knocks, I gaue & took,
Vntill at last halfe maimed as I was,
A man decripit, I those warres forsooke
And (with my Passe) did to my Country passe.
Where getting health, I then shooke hands with
And to the Court I often made resort. (death
Where *Englands* mighty *Queene Elizabeth*
Allow'd me entertainement for disport,
Then by the foretop did I take old time :
Then were not halfe so many fooles as now,
Then was my harvest, and my onely prime,
My purse receiving what my wit did plow,
Then in such compasse I my jests would hold,
That though I gaue a man a gird or twaine :
All his reuenge would be to giue me gold,
With commendations of my nimble braine!
Thus liu'd I till that gracious *Queene* deceast,
Who was succeeded by a famous King :
In whose blest Sons reigne (I with years opprest
Me)

John Garrets Ghost.

Me to my grave sicknesse and death did bring.
And now (*kind lacke*) thou seest my ayrie form
Hath shaken off her layle of flesh and bone,
Whilst they remaine the feast of many a worm,
My better part doth visit thee alone.
And as betweene us still, our good requests,
Thou neuer me, I neuer thee denyd.
So for my sake collect some merry Iests,
Whereby sad time maybe with mirth supply'd.
And when tis written find some good man forth
One (as thou thinkst) was when I liu'd my friend:
And though thy lines may be but little worth,
Yet unto him my duty recommend,
So farewell *lacke*, dame *Luna* gins to rise,
The twinkling stars begin to borrow light:
Remember this my suit I thee advise,
And so once more good honest *Jack* good night
With that more swifter then a shaft from bow,
He cut and curried through the empty ayre,
Whilst I amaz'd with feare, as cold as snow,
Straight felt my spirits quickly to repaire.
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,
Yet for his sake of whom I dreamed then,
I left my bed, and cloath'd my self with speed,
And presently betooke me to my pen:
Cleare was the morn, and *Phœbus* lent me light
And (as it followeth) I began to write,



Wit and Mirth.

(1)

Mylse carried an olde fellow
by water, that had wealth
enough to bee Deputy of the
Ward, and wit sufficient for
a Scavenger : the water be-
ing somewhat rough, he was afraid, and
(in stead of saying his prayers) he threat-
ned me, that if I did drowne him he would
see me hanged for it ; I desired him to bee
quiet and feare nothing, and so in little
space I landed him at the Beares Colledge
on the Bank-side, (alias Paris Garden,)
Well (said hee) I am glad I am off the
water, for if the Boate had miscaried, I
could haue swum no more then a Goose. /

(2)

John Garrets Ghost.

Me to my grane sicknesse and death did bring.
And now (kind *Jacke*) thou seest my ayrie form
Hath shaken off her layle of flesh and bone,
Whilst they remaine the feast of many a worm,
My better part doth visit thee alone.
And as betweene us still, our good requests,
Thou never me, I never thee denyd.
So for my sake collect some metry Iests,
Whereby sad time maybe with mirth supply'd.
And when tis written find some good man forth
One (as thou thinkst) was when I liv'd my friend:
And thought thy lines may be but little worth.
Yet unto him my duty recommend,
So farewell *Jacke*, dame *Lanagins* to rise,
The twinkling stars begin to borrow light:
Remember this my suit I thee advise,
And so once more good honest *Jack* good night
With that more swifter then a shaft from bow,
He cut and carried through the empty ayre,
Whilst I amaz'd with feare, as cold as snow,
Straight felt my spirits quickly to repaire.
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,
Yet for his sake of whom I dream'd then,
I left my bed, and cloath'd my self with speed:
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(2)

(2)

Ald painter (at the repairing of a Church) was writing sentences of Scripture upon the walles, by chance a friend of mine came into the Church, and reading them perceived much false English : old man, said my friend, why doe you not write true English ? Alas Sir, quoth the Painter, they are poore simple people in this Parish, and they will not goe to the cost of it.

(3)

Two men being late at a Table, one against the other, the one of them having a cup in his hand, dranke to the other, saying, Here Opposite I will drinke to you : Opposite said the other (being angry) what is that, I would not have thee put any of thy nicknames upon mee, for thou shalt wel know that I am no more opposite then thy selfe, or the skinne betweene thy browes.

(4)

A wealthy Monsieur in France, (having profound reuelwes, and shal-

low

Wit and Mirth

now baine) was told by his man that hee
 did continually gape in his sleepe, at which
 hee was angry with his man, saying, hee
 would not beleene it: his man verified it to
 be true, his master said that hee would ne-
 ver beleene any that told him so, except
 it should be, I chance to see it with mine owne
 eyes: and therefore I will haue a great
 looking glasse hanged at my beds feete
 for the purpose to try whether thou art a
 lying knaue or not.

(5)

The said Monsieur commaunded his
 man to buy him a gray hat, with a
 button on the brim to button it up behinde:
 his man bought him one, & brought him, he
 put it on his head with the button before,
 which when hee looked in the glasse and
 saw, he was very angry saying, thou crosse
 ontoward knaue, did I not bid thee buy a
 hat with the button to hold it vp behinde,
 and thou hast brought me one that turnes
 vp before: I command thee once more goe
 thy wayes, and buy mee such a one as I
 would haue, whatsoeuer it cost me.

(6) The

Wit and Mirth.

(6)

The same Gallant as hee travelled, would have a Goose to his Supper, which when she was roasted and brought to the Table, he said she stinke: not so, hope, said the Hostess, it cannot be, for I am sure she was alive since you came into the house: What may be quoth the Monsieur, but then I am sure that you kild her when she was living, she would never stinke for else.

(7)

A exceeding tall Gentlewoman was riding behind a very short little man so that the mans head reached no higher then her breast, which the aforesaid Monsieur perceiving, said Madam you will ride a great deale better, if you put your leggs over that same pummell of your saddle.

Another time he chanced to meete a Lady of his acquaintance, and asked her how she did, and how her good Husband fared: at which word she wept, saying that her husband was in heaven, in heaven, quoth he it is the first time that I heard of it, and I am sozry for it with all my heart.

(8)

Wit and Mirth.

Pull of my *Boots* and *Spurs*, I you beseech
when *Spurs* & *boots* is rather proper speech.

(71)

A Fellow made his boast that he rode
220 miles with one horse and never
drew bit: that may be (quoth another) per-
haps you rid him with a halter.

The proverb saies, he that wil *swear* wil *ly*.

He that will *lye* will steal by consequencey.

Swearers are *lyers*, *lyers* most are theeves,

Or God helpe *Jaylors*, & true *Vndershrines*

(72)

Of e saw a decayed Gentleman in a
very thredbare cloake, said to him

Sir you haue a very watchfull cloake on:

Why said the poore Gentleman? the o-

ther answered, I doe not thinke it had a

good nap this seuen yeares: the Gentle-

man replied, and truly sir me thinks you

want a nap as as well as my cloke, for you

talke tody for want of sleepe.

The prodigall at poverty doth scoffe,

Though from his back the begger's not far

off.

Here flout with flout, and bob with bob is

quitted,

And proud vainglorious folly finely fitted,

D

(73)

Wit and Mirth.

(73)

A Diligent and learned Preacher on a Sunday in the afternoon was preaching, whilst most of the zealous Vestry men, (for their meaner edification) were fast asleepe in their pews, in the meane space a young child cry'd somewhat aloud at the lower end of the Church, which the Preacher hearing called to the Purse and said, Purse, I pray thee still thy childe or else it may chance to awaken some of the best men in our parish.

Men sleepe at Sermons, sure their brains are adle,
(cradle :
sly Satan lullst them, and doth rocke the
When men thus do no ill tis understood,
The devill hinders them from doing good.

(74)

A Chorister or singing man at service in a Cathedrall Church, was a sleepe when all his fellowes were singing, which the Deane espying sent a boy to him to waken him, and asked him w^y he did not sing? he being suddenly awaked, prayed the boy to thanke master Deane for his kinde remembrance, and to tell him that he was as merry as those that did sing.

They

Wit and Mirth.

They say he's wife that can himselfe keepe
warne,

And that the man that sleeps well thinks no
harne :

He sung not yet was in a merry mood,
Like Iohn Indifferent, did nor harne nor
good.

(75)

A kind of clownish gentleman had halfe
a Brawne sent him against Christmas
he very liberally gaue the Seruingman
halfe a shilling that brought it : the Ser-
uingman gaue the Porter that carried it
eight pence before the Gentlemans face.
Sirrah, said he, are you so prodigall to re-
ward the porter with eight pence, when I
gaue you but sixe pence : thou bearest the
mind of a prodigall Gallant, although by
thy foote thou seemest a lubberly clowne:
Good sir, said the fellow, I confesse I haue
a very clownish lubberly paire of feete, but
yet I am perswaded that a paire of your
wozships shoes would fit them well.

Heres *Rore* & *Brawne* together are wel met
He knew that giuing was no way to get,
The world gets somewhat by the *Prodigal*
When as the *Miser* gets the diuell and all.

Wit and Mirth

(76)

A Gripping extortioner that had bene a
maker of beggars for the space of forty
yeares, and by raising rents and oppres-
sion had vndone many families, saies on a
time in anger to a poore fellow that had
stoln a shepe of his, Ah villaine, darest thou
rob me, I doo and sweare there is not so
damned a rogue in the world as thou: to
whom the fellow answered, I beseech your
good worshop remember your selfe and be
good to me for Gods sake, and for your
owne sake.

This Rascals eye is with a beame so blind,
That in the poore mans he a moat can finde:
The *wolf* himself, a temperate feeder deems
And euery man too much himselfe esteems

(77)

A Seruingman and his mistris was
standing at the Whitefryars stayers,
the stayers being very bad, a waterman
offered to helpe the woman, saying. Giue
me your hand Gentlewoman ile help you,
to whom her man replied, you saury fel-
low place your words right, my mistris is
no gentlewoman, she is a Lady.

All

Wit and Mirth.

All is not gold (they say) that glisters bright
Snow is not suger, though it looke as white
And tis approved to be true and common,
That euery Lady's not a Gentlewoman.

(78)

A Seruingman going in hast in London,
(minding his businesse more then his
way) a Gallant iustled him from the wall
almost into the kennell, the fellow turned
about, and asked the Gentleman why hee
did iustle him so? the Gentleman said, Be-
cause he would not giue the wall to a sawcy
knaue. The Seruingman replied, your
worship is not of my mind for I will.
Here Pride that takes humility in snuffe,
Is well encountred with a counterbuffe:
One would not giue the wall vnto a knaue.
The other would, and him the wall he gaue

(79)

A Justice of the Peace was very angry
with a country yeman because hee
came not to him at his first sending for him
and after he had bountifullly bestowed tw
or three dozen of knaues vpon him, he said
to him; Sirrah, I will make you know
that the proudest saucy knaue that dwels
vnder

Wit and Mirth.

Under my command shall come before mee
When I send for him, I beseech your wor-
ship said the man to pardon me, for I was
afraid : afraid of what said the Justice? of
your worship answered the fellow. Of mee
said the Justice? why wast thou afraid of
me? Because your worship lookes so like a
Lyon, said the man : a Lyon quoth the Ju-
stice when didst thou see a Lyon? may it
please your worship (the fellow replied) I
saw a butcher bring one but yesterday to
Colebrooke market, with a white face, and
his foure legs bound.

This fellow was a knave, or foole, or both
Or else his wit was of but slender growth
He gaue the whitefac'd calfe the Lions stile
The Justice was a proper man the while.

(80)

Divers Gentlemen being merry toge-
ther, at last one of their acquaintance
came to them (whose name was Sampson)
As, said one of them, now wee may be se-
rately merry, no Sergeant or Biliffe dare
rough vs, for if a thousand Philistims come,
here is Sampson, who is able to baine them
all: to whom Sampson replied. Sir I may
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Wit and Mirth.

boldly venture against so many as you
speake of, provided that you will lend me
one of your lawbones.

(81)

Two playsterers being at worke for
me at my house in Southwarke, did
manytimes patch and dawbe out part of
their dayes labour with prating, which I
being digging in my Garden did ouerheare
that their chatt was of their wines, and
how that if I were able (quoth one) my
wife should ride in pompe through London
as I saw a Countesse ride yester day : who
quoth the other, how did shee ride I pray?
Harry said he, in state, in her Horslitter.
I bafe quoth the other, Horslitter : I pro-
test as poore a man as I am, I would haue
allowed my wife a threepeny truss of clean
straw.

(82)

Sir Edward Dyer came to the town on
some businesse iust at the time, as the
Gate was newly shut, and the Warders
going away with the keies, hee looking
through the gate called to one of them say-
ing, Doe fellow I pray thee open the gate

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and

Wit and Mirth.

and let me in: None of your fellow Sir
but a pore knave: Why then said Sir Ed-
ward, I pray the pore knave let me in: nay
no knave neither, quoth the Warder.
Why then said the knight, he was a knave
that told me so.

(83)

Ope met his friend in the streete, and
told him he was very sozy to see him
loke so ill, asking him what he ailed, hee
replyed that hee was now well amended
but hee had bene lately sicke of the Pore:
What per, the small pore, said his friend?
Nay, quoth the other, my mind was not
so base: for I had the biggest pore that I
could get for my money.

(84)

A honest Hostesse of mine at Oxford
rosted an old shoulder of a Ram, which
- in the eating was as tough as a Buffe ier-
kin: I did aske her what the reason was
that the mutton was so tough: Shee said
she knew not, except the Butcher deceibed
- her in the age of it, and she would tell him
on both sides of his eares, like a knave as
he

Wit and Mirth.

was : Nay, quoth I, I thinke there is
another fault in it which will excuse the
Butcher, for perhaps you roasted it with
old wood : in troth quoth the hostesse it is
like enough, and my husband neuer doth
other wayes, but buy old stumps and knots
which makes all the meat we either roast
or boyle, so exceeding tough that no body
can eate it.

(85)

On hearing a clock strike three when
he thought it was not two, said; this
Clocke is like an hypocritical Puritane,
for though he will not sweare, yet he will
be abominably.

(86)

Dicke Tarleton said that he could com-
pare Quene Elizabeth to nothing
more fitly then to a Sculler, for said hee,
neither the Quene nor the Sculler hath
a fellow.

(86) Two

Wit and Mirth:

(87)

Two obstinate rich fellowes in-Land (that had each of them moze money then wit) by chance one of them comming out of Westminster-Hall met with his aduersaries wife, to whom he said, in troth good woman I doe much pittie your case in that it is your hard fortune that such a foole as your husband should haue so discreet and modest a wife? The woman replyde In truth Sir I doe grieue moze than so honest a wife as you haue, should haue such a wrangling knaue to her husband.

(88)

A poore labouring man was married & matched to a creature that so much troubled him with scolding waking, that she had much ado to refraine it sleeping, so that the poore man was so batterfang'd and belabour'd with his tongue mettle, that he was weary of his life: at last foure or fife women that were his neighbors (pittying his case) came in his absence to his house to admonish and counsell his wife to a quiet behaviour towards her husband: telling her that she was a shame to all good women, in her bad

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Wit and Mirth.

viage of so honest a painefull man: the woman replied to her neighbours, that shee thought her husband did not loue her which was partly the cause that shee was so froward towards him; why (said an old woman) I will shew thee how thou shalt proue that he loues thee dearely, doe thou counterfeite thy selfe dead, and lye under the table, and one of us will fetch thy husband, and he shall find us heavy and grieuing for thee; by which meanes thou shalt perceine by his lamentation for thee, how much he loves thee: this counsell was allowed and effected; when the poore man came home, he hearing the matter (being much opprest with griefe) ranne under the table bemoaning the happy losse of his most kind beration, and making as though hee would kisset her, with a most louing embrace, to make all sure, he bzake her neck. The neighbors pittying the mans extreme passion, in compassion told him that his wife was not dead, and that all this was done but to make a tryall of his loue towards her: whereupon they called her by her name, bidding her to rise and that shee had fooled it enough with her husband: but for all their calling, shee lay still, which made

Wit and Mirth.

made one of the women to shake and logge her, at which the woman cryed, alas she is dead indeed: why this it is quoth her husband to dissemble and counterfeit with God and the world.

(90)

A Planter of a Colledge in Oxford possessing some crums of Logicke and chippings of Sophistrie, making distribution of bread at the Schollers table, one of the Schollers, complained unto him that the bread were now baked: Why quoth he, so it should be, what else is the definition of bread, but dough baked?

(91)

A Miserable fellow in the country, did once a yeare vse to inuite his neighbours to dinner, and as they were one time late, hee had them welcome, saying, that there was a surloyne of beefe, that the ore it came from cost 20. pound, and that there was a Capon that hee paid 2. Shillings 6 pence for in the market: at which a country yeoman sitting against the Capon, fell

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Wit and Mirth.

to and cut off a leg of it, (the rest of the
guests being not yet past their roast beefe)
to whom the man of the house said, My
friend, I pray thee eate some of this same
surlayne : Oh sir, God forbid, quoth the
fellow, I am but a poore man, an oxe of 20
pound price is too deare meat, a Capon of
halfe a crowne will serue my turne well
enough, I thanke you.

(92)

A Rich man told his nephew, that he had
read a booke called Lucius Apuleius, of
the Golden asse, and that hee found there
how Apuleius after he had beene an asse
many yeares, by eating of roses hee did
recouer his manly shape again, and was no
moze an asse : the young man replied to
his vnkle, Sir, if I were worthy to advise
you, I would giue you counsell to eate a
sallad of roses once a weeke your selfe.

(46)

A Fellow hauing been married but fise
weekes, perceined his wife to be great
with child, wherefoze he desired him to
buy a cradle shortly after hee went to a
faire

Wit and Mirth.

False and bought ten cradles, and beseege
demanded why hee bought so many, hee
answered, that his wife would have life for
them all in one yeare.

(94)

A Gentleman vntrust and vntbuttoned
in a cold winter morning, a friend of
his told him that it was not for his health
to goe so open in the raw weather, and that
he mised it did not kill him to goe so oft
vntrust: to whom the other replied. Sir,
you are of the mind of my Silke-man, Per-
rier or Tayler, for they find fault as you do
because I goe so much on trust, but it is a
fault I haue naturally from my parents
and kindred, and my creditors tell me that
I do imitate my betters.

(95)

A Justice of the peace committed a fel-
low to prison, and commanded him a-
way three or foure times, but still the fel-
low entreated him. Sirrah (said the Ju-
stice.) must I bid you bee gone so many
times, and will you not go? The fellow an-
swered, Sir, if your worship had bidden me
to dinner or supper, I should in my poore
man-

Wit and Mirth.

manners not to haue taken your offer un-
der two or three biddings, therefore I pray
you blame me not if I looke for foure bid-
dings to prison.

(96)

A Great man kept a miserable house so
that his seruants did alwayes rise from
the table with empty panches, though
leane licked platters: truely said one of his
men I thinke my Lord will worke mira-
cles shortly, for though he practise not to
raise the dead, or dispossesse the diuell, yet
he goes about to feed his great family with
almost nothing.

(97)

He said that Bias the Philosopher
was the first Bowler: and that euer
since the most part of Fowles doe in me-
mory of their originall, weare his badge of
remembrance, and very dutifully hold
of Bias. Now to tell you, this Bias was one
of the seven Sages or wise men of Greece,
by authoꝝ to proue him the inuenter of
Bowling, are Shamrooke, a famous Egi-
ptian Ginnosophist in his 9 booke of rub-
bing and running: of which opinion Bal-
lus the Theban Oratour seemes to bee
in

Wir and Mirth.

in his third treatise of court performance the likeliest coniecture is, that it was devised as an embleme to figure out the world folly and inconstancy: for though a child will ride a Sticke or Staffe with an imagination that he is on horsebacke, or make pyes of di, or houses of cards, feed with spoones, and cry for three peeces of bread and butter, which childish actions are ridiculous to a man: yet this wise game of Bowling doth make the Fathers surpass their children, in apish toys and most delicate dogtrickes. As first for the posture 1 handle your Bowle: 2 aduance your Bowle: 3. charge your Bowle: 4 ayme your Bowle; 5 discharge your Bowle 6 plye your Bowle: in which last posture of plying your Bowle, you shall perceive many varieties and diuisions as wringing of the neck, lifting vp of the shoulders, clapping of the hands, lying downe of one knee running after the Bowle, making long outifull scrapes and legs, (sometimes bare headed) entreating him to flée flée flée (with out when tis too hoist:) and though the Bowler be a Gentleman, yet there he may meete with attendant rookes; though sometimes will be his betters six to four

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Wit and Mirth.

oz two to one. I doe not know any thing
fitter to be compared to bowling than woo-
ing, oz louers, for if they doe not see one a-
nother in two dayes, they will say, Good
Lord, it is seven yeares since we saw each
other, for Louers doe think that in absence
time sleepeth, and in their presence that he
is in a wild gallop: So a Bowler, although
the ally oz marke bee but thirty oz forty
paces, yet sometimes I haue heard the
Bowler cry rub rub rub, and sweare and
lye that hee was gone an hundred miles
when the Bowle hath beene short of the
blocke two yards, oz that he was too short
a thousand foot when he is vpon the head
of the Jacke, oz 10 oz 12 foote beyond. In
a word, there are many moze seuerall po-
stures at bowles, than there are ridiculous
idle tales oz jests in my booke. Yet are the
bowlers very weake stomackt, for they are
euer casting: sometimes they giue the stab
at the ally head, but God bee thanked no
blood shed, and sometimes they bestow a
pippin one vpon the other, but no good apple
Ile assure you. The marke which they
sayme at hath sundry names and epithites,
as a Block, a Jack, and a Mistris: a Block
because of his birth and breeding, shewing

Wit and Mirth.

by his mettle of what house hee came : a
Jacke, because he being smoth'd and got-
ten into some handsome shape, forgets the
house he came of, suffering his betters to
give him the often salute whilst he like
Jacke sauce neither knows himselfe nor
will know his superiours. But I hold a mis-
tresse to be the fittest name for it, for there
are some that are commonly termed mis-
tresses, which are not much better than
mine aunts : and a mistress is oftentimes
a marke for every knave to haue a sting at
every one strives to come so neere her that
he would kisse her : and yet some are short
some wide, and some ouer, and who so doth
kisse it may perhaps swarten his lips, but
I assure him it shal neuer fill his belly, but
rather empty his purse. So much for bow-
ling, that I feare me I haue bowled be-
yond the marke.

(98)

A Minister riding into the west parts
of England, happened to stay at a bil-
lage on Sunday, where he offered kindly
to bestow a Sermon vpon them: which the
Constable hearing, did aske the Minister
if he were licenced to preach? yes quoth he,
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Wit and Mirth.

that I am, and with that hee drew out of
his box his Licence, which was in Latine.
Sternely, said the Constable, I understand no
Latine, yet I pray you let me see it, I per-
haps shall pick out here and there a word :
No good sir, quoth the Minister, I will
have no words pickt out of it, for spoyleing
my Licence.

(99)

A Clinch.

A Country man being demanded how
such a River was called, that ranne
through their Country : he answered that
they neuer had need to call the River for it
wayes came without calling.

(100)

A Fellow hauing his booke at the Sel-
lions, was burnt in the hand, and
was commanded to say, God saue the King
the King, said he, God saue my Grandam.
That taught me to reade, I am sure I had
bene hanged else.

Ca

(101) A

Wit and Mirth.

(101)

v A toy to mocke an Ape.

IN Quene Elizabeths dayes ther was
a fellow that woze a bzowch in his hat, like
a tooth-drawer, with a Rose and Crowne
and two letters: this fellow had a warrant
from the Lord Chamberlaine at that time
to trauell with an exceeding braue Ape
which he had; whereby hee gat his liuing
from time to time at markets and fayres
his Ape did alwayes ride upon a mastiff
dog, and a man with a drum to attend him.
It happened that these four travellers
came to a towne called Lode in Cornwaile
where the Anne being taken, the drum
went about to signifie to the people, that
such an Anne was an Ape of singular be-
tue and quality, if they pleased to bestow
their time and money to see him: now the
townsmen being honest labouring Fishermen
and other painfull functioners, had no leisure
to wast either time or coyne in Ape-tricks
so that no audience came to the Anne, to the
great grieve of Iack-an-Apes his master
who collecting his wits together, resolved
to adventure to put a trick vpon the towne
whatsoever came of it: whereupon he to

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Wit and Mirth.

pen, inke, and paper, and wrote a warrant
to the Mayoz of the towne, as followeth.

These are to will and require you, and e-
very of you, with your wiues and families,
that vpon the sight hereof you make your
personall appearance before the Queenes
Ape, for it is an Ape of ranke and quality,
who is to be practised through her Maie-
ties dominions, that by his long experience
mongst her louing subiects, he may be the
better enabled to do her Maiesty seruice
hereafter; and hereof faile you not, as you
will answer to the contrary, &c.

This Warrant being brought to the
Batoz, he sent for a Shoemaker at the fur-
thest end of the towne to read it: which
when he heard, he sent for all his brethren,
who went with him to the towne Hall to
consult upon this weighty business. Where
after they had late a quarter of an houre no
man saying any thing, nor any man know-
ing what to say; at last a young man that
 neuer had bozne any office, said, Gentle-
men, if I were fit to speake I thinke (with-
out offence, vnder correction of the Woz-
shipfull) that I should soone decide this bu-
sines; to whom the Mayoz said, I pray god
your neighbour speak, for though you neuer did

heare.

Wit and Mirth.

beare any office here, yet you may speake
as wisely as some of vs. Then sir, said the
young man, my opinion is, that this Ape
carrier is a gybing, scoffing knave, and one
that doth purpose to make this towne a
jesting mocking stocke through the whole
kingdome, soz was it ever knowne that a
fellow should be so impudent audacious as
to send a warrant without either name or
date, to a Mayor of a towne, to the Quenes
Lieutenant, and that he with his brethren
their wiues and families, should be all com-
manded to come before a Iack-an-apes? My
counsell is that you take him and his Ape,
with his man, and his dogge, and whip the
whole messe or murrinall of them out of
the towne, which I thinke will be much
for your credit if you doe.

At which words a graue man of the
towne being much moued, said, My friend
you haue spoken little better then treason
soz it is the Quenes Ape, and therefore
beware what you say; you say true, said
master Mayor, I muste who haue that fau-
ry fellow come into our company, I pray
thee my friend depart, I thinke you long to
haue vs all hanged. So in brieft he was
put out of the doores, soz they were no com-

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Wit and Mirth.

pany for him. Well now what is to be done in this matter? Harry (said another Seniour) we see by the Broch in the mans hat that he is the Quenes man, and who knowes what power a knave may haue in the Court to doe poore men wrong in the Country? let us goe and see the Ape, it is but 2 pence a peece, and no doubt but it will be well taken, and if it come to the Quens eare, she will thinke us kinde people that would shew so much duty to her Ape, what may she thinke we would doe to her Bears if they came hither? besides it is about 200 miles to London, and if we should be complained on & fetched up with Pursuivants, whereas now every man may escape for his 2 pence, the warrant it would cost us 10 groats a peece at the least. This counsell passed current, and all the whole droue of the towenesmen, with wiues and childzen went to see the Ape, who was sitting on a table with a chain about his neck, to whom master Mayo (because it was the Quens Ape) put off his hat, & made a leg but Iacke let him passe vnraged. But mistris Mayoress coming next in her cleane linnen held her hands before her belly, and like a woman of good breeding made a low curtise

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whilst

Wit and Mirth.

Whilēt Iacke (still Court-like) although respected not the man, yet to expresse his courtesie to his wife he put forth his paw towards her, and made a mouthe, which the woman perceiuing, said, Husband I doe think in my conscience that the Quēenes Ape doth mocke me: whereat Iacke made another mouthe at her, which master Mayoz espying, was very angry, saying, Sirrah, thou Ape, I doe see thy saucinesse, and if the rest of the courtiers haue nomoze manners then thou hast, then they haue all bin better fed then taught: and I will make thee know befoze thou goest from hence that this woman is my wife, an ancient woman, and a midwife, and one that may be thy mother for age.

In this rage master Mayoz went to the Inn dooze, where Iack-an-Apes tutor was gathering of money, to whom he said, Sir doe you allow your Ape to abuse my wife? Po sir quoth the other, not by any meanes truly sayd the Mayoz, there is witnesse enough within that haue seene him make mops and moles at her, as if she were not worthy to wipe his shoes, and I will not so put it by. Iackes tutor replied, Sir, I will presently giue him condigne punishment:

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Wit and Mirth.

ment : and straight he tooke his Flanders
blade, his Whip, and holding his Ape by
the chaine, he gaue him halfe a dozen licks
which made his teeth dance in his head
like so many Virginall Jackes : which
master Payor perceiuing, ran to him, and
held his hands, saying, Enough, enough,
good sir, you haue done like a Gentleman,
let me intreat you not to giue correction
in your wrath: and I pray you and your
Ape after the Play is done, to come to my
house and sup with me and my wife.

(102)

This Tale I writ on purpose to stick in the
teeth of my proud squeamish nice criti-
call Reader.

A Countryman brought his wines wa-
ter to a Physician, saying, Good mor-
row to your Worship, master Confusion.
Physician thou wouldest say, said the other
truly, said the fellow, I am no Scholler,
but altogether bnrude, and very ingrum,
& I haue here my wines water in a pottle
pot, beseeching your mastership to cast it.
So the Physician tooke the water, which
hauing put into an bzinall and blessed it,
he said My friend, thy wife is here weate:

my friend thy wife

Wit and Mirth.

truly, quoth he, I thinke shee be in a pre-
sumption: a consumption thou wouldest say,
said the Physician; I told you befoze (the
fellow replied) that I doe not understand
your allegant speeches. Well quoth the
Doctor, doth thy wife keepe her bed? No,
truly sir, said he, she sold her bed a fortnight
since: verily, quoth the Doctor, she is very
costly: Costly said the man, your Wor-
ship sayes true for I haue spent all that I
haue vpon her abnost. Said the Doctor, I
doe not say costly but costlye: and I pray
thee tell me, is shee loose or bound? Indeed
sir, said the man, shee is bound to me during
her life, and I am bound to her: yea but I
pray thee said the doctor, tell me in plaine
termes how shee goes to stoule? truly, said
the fellow, in plaine termes shee goes to
stool very strangely, for in the morning it
is so hard that your Worship can scarce
bite it with your teeth, and at night it is so
thin that you might eat it with a spoone.

(103)

Good fellowes hauing well washed
their toits in wine at a Hauerne, one
of them was very importunate to be gone;
to whom another of them said, I pray thee
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Wit and Mirth.

be patient, talke no more of going, for if thou wilt sit still but a little, thou shalt find that we shall all be gone, though wee stay here.

(104)

A Jdout, who dwelt with a rich un-
kle he had, was by a Courtier begged
for a foole; which the foole perceiuing ran
home to his uncles Parlour which was
fairely hung with Tapestry hangings and
in euery one of the hangings was the fi-
gure of a foole wrought: So the Foole
watching his opportunity that no body
was in the parlour, hee tooke a knife and
cut the fooles pictures out of euery hanging
and went and hid them in a hay-mow,
which when his unkle came in and saw, he
was very angry, demanded who had spoyle-
d his hangings? Ah nunkle, said the Jd-
out, I did cut out all the fooles, for there is a
great man at Court that hath begged
mee for a foole, and he would haue all the
rich fooles he can heare of: therefore I
cut them all out of your hangings, and I
haue hid them where I thinke hee will not
find them in haste.

(105)

Wit and Mirth.

(105)

A Fellow being scoulded at by his wife, would make her beleene hee would drowne himselfe: and as he went toward the river, his Wife followed him, desiring him to forbear, or at least to let her speake with him; well, quoth hee, speake briefly for I am in haste: then husband said shee seeing you will drowne your selfe let me intreat you to take my counsell, which is, that you cast not your selfe into this shallow place here, for it will griene my heart to see how long you will be a dying: but goe with me a little way, and I will shew you a deepe place, where you shall be dispatched presently.

(106)

A Woman in Scotland lay dying, to whom her husband said, Wife now thou art about to leaue me alone, I pray thee tell me with whom shall I marry. Shee replied, are you in hast to marry before the breath be out of my body, then marry the diuels dam: not so wise, said he. I haue had his daughter already, and if I should match with his mother too, then I should be guilty of incest.

(107) There

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Wit and Mirth?

(107)

There was a Gentleman that was of a very halty disposition, so that he would fret and chafe almost at all things, and be seldome pleased with any thing, and withall was a great Tobacco taker, and as one time he beat and kick'd his man, the fellow ran from him, and told one of his fellowes that he thought his master was transformed into Brawne, for he was all Choller, and that he thought the reason of his kicking was, because he drank Coltsfoot among his Tobacco.

(108)

A Doctor of Physick in Italy asked a waterman if he might goe well by water ouer the riuer Po, the fellow told him yea: but the Doctor when he came to the water side and saw it was a little rough weather was very angry, and said, You watermen are the veriest knaves in the world, for to gaine sirpence you care not to cast a man away: to whom the Waterman replied, Sir, it appeares wee are men of a cheaper function and better conscience than you: for you sometimes will not cast a man away vnder 40, 50, or 100 crownes.

(109) One

Wit and Mirth.

(109)

Ope borrowed a cloake of a gentleman and met one that knew him, who said I thinke I know that cloake: it may be so, said the other, I borrowed it of such a gentleman: the other told him that it was too short: yea but quoth he that had the cloake I will haue it long enough before I bring it home againe.

(110)

A Poor womans husband was to bee hanged at the towne of Lancaster; and on the erecution day shee intreated the Shrieue to bee good to her and stand her friend: the Shrieue said that he could doe her no hurt, for her husband was condemned and iudged by the Law, and therefore he must suffer. Ah good master Shrieue, said the woman, it is not his life that I aske, but because I haue farre home, and my mare is old and stiffe, therfore I would intreat you to doe me the fauour to let my husband be hanged first.

(111)

Ope came into a College to an Vniuersity, and asked how many Fellowes belonged to the house: another replied,

Wit and Mirth.

lyed, that there were moze good fellows
then good Schollers two to one.

(112)

A Fellow being drunke was brought
before a Justice, who committed him
to prison: and the next day when he was to
be discharged, he was to come to the Justice
again, who said to him, Sirrah you were
not drunke the last night? your Worship
ayes true sayd the fellow. Yes but you
were drunke, said the Justice, and you did
abuse me, and said I was a wise Justice:
the fellow replied, If I said so, I thinke I
was drunke indeed, and I cry your Wor-
ship mercy, for I will neuer doe you that
wrong when I am sober.

(113)

A Spaniard hauing but one eye chanced
to meet a man in the field where draw-
ing both their Rapiers, the other man
with an unfortunate thrust struck out the
other eye of the Spaniard, whereat the
blind man suddenly cast down his Rapier,
saying, Buenas noches, which in the Spa-
nish tongue is goodnight:

FINIS.

This Author hath newly caused all his worke
(being aboue 60) to be printed into one Volume
the names of all which Workes are set downe in this
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